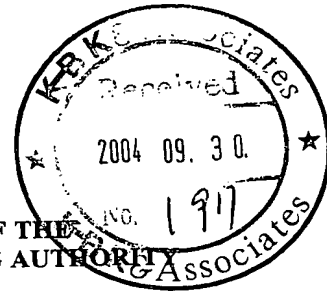


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

BAHNG Hae Cheol
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Date of mailing 22 September 2004 (22.09.2004)
 (day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
AZ04-160WOWW

FOR FURTHER ACTION
 See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/KR 2004/001180

International filing date (day/month/year)
 19 May 2004 (19.05.2004)

Priority Date (day/month/year)
 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
F16M7/00

Applicant

LG ELECTRONICS INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Cont. No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Cont. No. II Priority
- ☒ Cont. No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Cont. No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Cont. No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Cont. No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Cont. No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Cont. No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

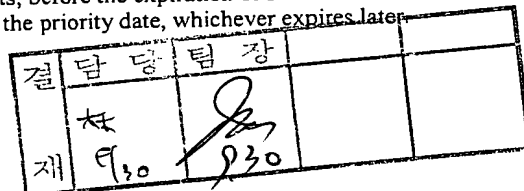
2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.



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Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. III:

**Non-establishment of opinion with regard to
novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of the because the description, claims or drawings (particular elements indicated below) or said claims Nos. 14 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):

The term "single exposed area" of the extension's end portion is unclear.;
the claims, or said claims Nos. 14 are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed;
no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 11, 14;

Continuation No. V

**Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step
or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 10, 12, 13, 15 - 30, 35	YES
	Claims 31 - 34	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 - 10, 12, 13, 15 - 30, 35	YES
	Claims 31 - 34	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 10, 12, 13, 15 - 35	YES
	Claims ----	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

The French patent FR 2 549 870 A shows a nut having a screw hole for a leg assembly comprising a supplementary member which couples the ribs and allowing the tool to access

from radius direction of the hub, a plurality of ribs extending perpendicular to a horizontal plane in a radial direction from a circumference of a hub which have a side (9) over which a tool for rotating the hub about the leg bolt is disposed. The height of the ribs are lower than that of the hub and the height of the supplementary member is lower than that of the rib. The supplementary member comprises an extension member which has a height that is lower than the height of the ribs and extends from a center of the height direction of the hub and from a circumference of the hub to a space between the ribs.

The Swiss patent CH 525 980 A shows an end disc having a threaded hub, a plurality of ribs extending in a radial direction from a circumference of the hub, a supplementary member (comprising an extension member in a space between the ribs and the hub) which couples the ribs and the rim which is perpendicular to a horizontal plane, at the end of the extension member and couples the end portions of the ribs. The height of the rim is lower than the rib and the rim is coupled with a lower part of the rib.

Although single features of the subject matter of the present application are known from the documents cited above, but none of them shows a lock nut for a leg assembly of electric home appliances.

The french patent FR 591.028 A shows a wrench comprising a long grip having two projections at the curved coupling part of the grip on an outer circumferential surface thereof, a box end and an open end.

All essential features of claims 31 – 34 are known from the document cited above and therefore it is obvious to a person skilled in the art, by applying a combination of these features, to arrive at a wrench as claimed.

The claims 31 – 34 therefore are not new and not inventive.

The industrial applicability of the present application is doubtless given.

Continuation No. VIII:

Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Reference signs in parentheses should be inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility (Rule 6.2 PCT). In the description and Fig. 7 the same reference sign (125a) is used for sides on two different ribs. In the description on page 12 and 13, and in claim 9 the side 125a is on the same rib.